



Fourth Day News

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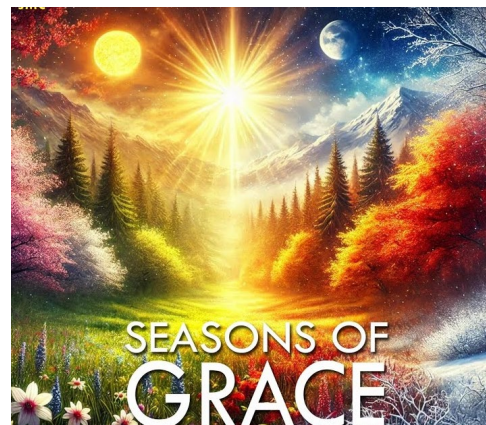
"A Season of Glory"

In the fall, the trees are clearly shouting forth "Glory, give glory to God!" The autumn leaves of yellow, red, and orange glow with radiant beauty, giving praise to their Creator as they shimmer and flutter in the breeze. As I contemplate the trees, my heart and mind are lifted to God and I join in their chorus of joyful praise. Even when the leaves have fallen, have you ever noticed the hundred shades of tan and brown, and the unique beauty of the branches against the sky? Even a barren landscape has its own kind of loveliness. In these next weeks, let's keep our eyes open to see the beauty of the earth, and join in praising God, whose goodness knows no bounds.

In September, we welcomed seven new brothers to our Cursillo community, including Fr. Stephen Sohe, SSJ. My deep thanks to Charles Wiley and the team who led the Men's 226th Cursillo.

Thank you for the love and sacrifice you offered in leading this weekend and inviting our new brothers to live the Life of Grace.

I'm pleased to welcome Stefanie Miles to the Secretariat as co-chair of the 3-Day Committee alongside current co-chair Kelli Baxter. Thank you, Stefanie, for stepping up to serve! With Stephanie Frye, who joined this summer as our secretary, we now have two Stefanie/Stephanies on the Secretariat.



My heartfelt thanks go to James Brightful, who will step down as Co-Lay Leader on December 31, 2026, after six years of service. I'm grateful for his leadership and mentorship during my first year. He will continue serving the Movement, and we thank God for his servant's heart.

As we prepare for the Men's and Women's Weekends in Fall 2027, I ask for your help with Sponsoring and Fundraising. There will be no 2027 Spring Weekends.

Sponsoring: Please pray that God will move our hearts as Cursillistas and guide each of us to someone to invite to Cursillo. Pray also that those called to sponsor a candidate will fulfill their weekend sponsorship responsibilities joyfully and consistently.

Fundraising: Each weekend will cost more than \$500 per person for both team members and candidates. We aim to offset this cost through funds raised by the Movement. As we develop our fundraising campaign, please consider making a generous donation. Thank you!

Kathy Schmitt, Co-Lay Leader
66th Women's Weekend, Diocese of Richmond
Laurel Ultreya



Go Let Your Light Shine: Reflections from the 226th Men's Cursillo

Serving as an assistant shepherd on the 226th Men's Cursillo showed me how brightly the Holy Spirit shines when a community gathers in faith, service, and love. Our rector, Charles Wiley, assembled a team of 12 men whose experience ranged from serving their first weekend to serving on many teams and delivering nearly every talk or reflection.

Two talented musicians and three spiritual directors joined us in supporting seven candidates, including Fr. Stephen Sohe, SSJ throughout the weekend.

Palancas of the Cursillo community were critical and deeply felt. From Erin Wiley's organization and communications talent during our formation to the Thursday night dinner provided by the women of the 225th to outside support caring for our needs, to the great outpouring at the closing. It was a community effort of preparation, including Palanca parties, weekly prayer gatherings, and time to fellowship at team meetings and the team party.

This was my third weekend serving as a team member. Each team has been unique, and each rector has led as a servant. Charles and his assistant rector, Mike Lillis, kept our attention on the "big picture": creating space for the candidates to experience the Holy Spirit at work, just as those of us serving encountered the Spirit anew during our weekends. We offered everything we did in Jesus' name, in the light of the Holy Spirit within us, and in obedience to our Lord's command to love. That purpose found its fullest expression in the weekend's theme: Go let your light shine!

At the closing, I was moved by each candidate's witness and by the light of the community present. I couldn't help but notice four men from the Cursillo Weekend I lived, the Men's 211: Willie McNeil, the lead shepherd, and I served on the team; one other is now an ordained deacon, one will be soon, two of us have served as Ultreya leaders, and three are candidate sponsors. While it is good to see that fruit of the Lord's labor from that weekend in 2013, and to wonder where the Lord will call these men in 13 years, it is all the Lord's work and glory. We, like St. Paul, are to decrease so the Lord may increase. De Colores.

John M. Conroy, St. James Ultreya
211th Men's Weekend, Sojourners of Christ
Saint Teresa of Avila, Ultreya

From 3-Day Committee ***“The Work Continues: A Call to Serve”***

In our last Fourth Day News, I shared a simple message from the 3-Day Committee: no one carries the work alone. As we look toward our future Cursillo Weekends, that message continues to guide us.

This quarter also brings a transition in leadership for the 3-Day Committee.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Bernadette “Pio Pio” White, who is completing her service as Co-Chair after many years of faithful service to the Secretariat and our Cursillo community. Pio Pio has generously shared her time, experience, wisdom, and love for this movement, and we are deeply grateful for her commitment and her many years of saying YES to Cursillo.

I am also delighted to welcome Stefanie Miles as our new 3-Day Committee Co-Chair.

Stefanie brings her own love of Cursillo and heart for service, and I look forward to serving alongside her as we continue this important ministry together.

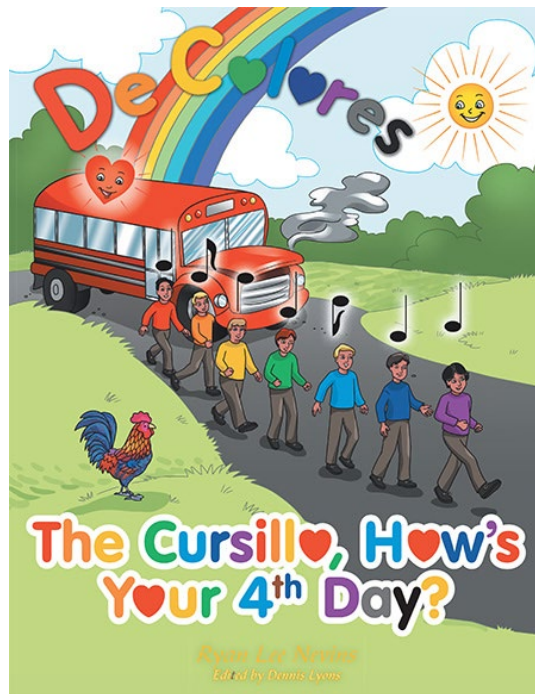
Preparing the Way for What Comes Next

Over the past few years, we have been blessed to welcome new Babe Chicks through four Cursillo Weekends: the 223rd Women’s Weekend in April 2024, the 224th Men’s Weekend in November 2024, the 225th Women’s Weekend in September 2025, and most recently, the 226th Men’s Weekend in September 2026. Now we are looking ahead to the 227th Women’s Weekend and 228th Men’s Weekend, both planned for Fall 2027, as we await confirmation of our weekend coordinators.

“Preparing The Way”, we are calling on both our seasoned Cursillistas and our Babe Chicks to serve.

To our seasoned Cursillistas: we need your experience, wisdom, and understanding of the movement. You carry something that can only be passed along by walking beside others, sharing what you have learned, and helping form the next generation of Cursillo servant leaders.

To our Babe Chicks: your **Fourth Day** has begun! Whether you made your weekend in 2024, 2025, or just joined us through the 226th Weekend, we encourage you to stay connected, continue growing, and prayerfully consider where you may be called to serve.



The 3-Day Committee continues to welcome volunteers to help us prepare and support our weekends. We are also asking Cursillistas who are interested in working a future weekend and/or discerning a call to someday lead a weekend to complete the Application to Work a Weekend available online. This helps us know of your interest and allows us to prayerfully identify, develop, and prepare future teams and leaders.



Whether you have been part of Cursillo for decades or are one of our newest Babe Chicks, the invitation is the same: ***Where might God be asking you to give your next YES?***

- ✚ Maybe it is joining the 3-Day Committee.
- ✚ Maybe it is working your first weekend.
- ✚ Maybe it is returning to serve after some time away.
- ✚ Or perhaps God is calling you to take another step toward leadership.

There is a place for you, and there is work for us to do together. ***The 227th and 228th Weekends will be here before we know it.*** Let us begin preparing the way together.

De Colores!
Kelli Baxter – 175th Women's Weekend
Co-Chair, 3-Day Committee

“Give Thanks”

De Colores, my brothers and sisters! I am grateful to share a reflection on my Fourth Day with you as we approach a very special time of year: Thanksgiving.

I made my Cursillo with the 104th Women's Cursillo Weekend, “What One Must Be,” May 1–3, 1987. After all these years, I am still awed by that experience. I was the new Bebe Chic who sprang from her seat the moment we were invited to address the community. It was almost an out-of-body experience!

I was so filled with joy that I could not wait to say, ***“Thank You, Father,”*** for the grace and love I had received that weekend.

My Fourth Day has taken many turns since then, but one lesson has become especially dear to my heart: giving thanks. Not because I understand it better than anyone else, but because I have learned that gratitude is not always easy. How do we give thanks when life is uncomfortable, when we face our darkest moments, when we lose someone we love, or when pain feels almost unbearable?



“Give thanks,” I hear in my heart. “Why, Father?” I ask. I have very frank conversations with God—sometimes soft and pleading, and at other times loud and challenging. Yet I keep returning to the same invitation: draw closer to Me.

St. Paul helps me understand that invitation. In ***2 Corinthians 12:9, the Lord tells Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” Paul then declares, “For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).*** Our weakness does not place us beyond God's reach. It can become the very place where we recognize His strength.

Over the past five years, those words have taken on a deeper meaning for me.

After multiple surgeries and my husband's diagnosis of kidney failure, it seemed that we were constantly asking God to heal, deliver, comfort, and help us. And then, slowly, I began to thank Him—not because the suffering was good, but because He was with us in the midst of it.

For months, I found myself waking at 3:00 in the morning. Believe me, I am not naturally an early riser! I would go downstairs to our family room and sit quietly until the sunrise began to fill the windows. Somehow, the Lord made each morning special. I began to thank Him for the stillness, the beauty, and the assurance that I was not alone.



Nothing about our physical circumstances had suddenly changed. The responsibilities of caregiving were still there, as were my own needs and worries. But something within me was changing. I began to understand what it means to say, "His grace is sufficient." I learned to praise my way through difficult days and long nights, even when relief did not come as quickly as I hoped. At times, I felt so close to God that it was almost as though His arms were around me. The tears would flow, and I knew I was beginning to understand.

So, what am I doing this Thanksgiving? I am giving thanks.

As a music minister, I know the power of praise, but I am learning to live that praise even when life does not unfold as I would choose. I thank God for His presence, His mercy, and the love revealed to us through Jesus Christ. I am learning to trust His way, even when I cannot see where it leads.

That is part of what my Fourth Day in Cursillo has taught me. Through Kairos Ministry, Music Ministry, Religious Education, Cursillo Communications, the Secretariat, and opportunities to serve as a servant leader, God continues to call me closer to Him and to others. As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, I pray that you will recognize God's blessings in both the joyful moments and the difficult ones. May we remember to thank Him not only for what He gives us, but also for the strength, grace, and companionship He offers along the way.

Give thanks—with a grateful heart. And when gratitude is hard to find, begin with this simple prayer: "Thank You, Father, for being here with me." De Colores!

Lethia A. Kelly (LARSK)
104th Women's Cursillo Weekend
May 1-5, 1987, St. Teresa of Avila Ultreya
Communications Committee

Inspired by the hymn "Give Thanks"
(Don Moen)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus
Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, I am rich
"Because of what the Lord has done for
us."
(Don Moen)

Cursillo School of Leaders



Meets Monthly on Zoom

Join the CSOL Zoom Meeting

Time: 7:00 – 8:50 PM

Upcoming talks include:

We are covering topics such as Exploring the New Talks, and the Various Committees of the Secretariat.

- **November 18th:** Exploring the New - Talks, Cursillista Beyond Cursillo and Total Security Rollo
- **December 6th:** Advent Day of Reflection at St. Hugh's in Greenbelt, MD (in-person)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81552163918>

Dial by your location:

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Link: us02web.zoom.us/j/81552163918

Meeting ID: 815 5216 3918

Passcode: 750344

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,81552163918#,,,,,0#,,750344# US
(New York)

+13017158592,,81552163918#,,,,,0#,,750344# US
(Washington D.C)

Remember that these CSOL meetings are open to all Cursillistas who are interested. Reminders will be sent out by Flocknote before each meeting.

Take a look at our [YouTube channel](#) for recordings of the CSOL talks. We hope you will join us soon!

Jeanne Jacobs and Leslie Collica
Co-Chairs of the Cursillo of Leaders
223rd Women's Cursillo Weekend, April 2024



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Cursillo School of Leaders Upcoming Talks

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 ~ 7-8:50PM

Exploring the New - Talks, Cursillista Beyond Cursillo and Total Security Rollos

Cursillo Fifth Day Mass of Remembrance

**Saturday, November 14, 2026 - 10:00AM
1:00PM**

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
3630 Quesada Street NW
Washington, DC 20015.

Cursillo Advent Day of Reflection

Sunday, December 6, 2026 ~ 2:00 - 4:00 PM

St. Hugh Catholic Church
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
(In Person)

SERVANT LEADERS



“You Are Lovable”



***"The Joy of the Lord is my
Strength"***





FDN 2026-2027 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

4TH QUARTER ISSUE

“Special End of the Year Issue”

Submission Deadline – December 11th

Publish Date – December 30th

2027 1ST QUARTER ISSUE

January - March

Submission Deadline – March 31st

Publish Date – April 16th

FOURTH DAY NEWS Calling All Writers

We need to hear from you. Please dig deep and write a sharing for the community. ***How is your 4th Day Going? Tribute to someone who has gone on to their 5th Day. What's up with Ultreya?*** Share your experience, strength, and hope as we all walk on this journey of love.

FDN Editor

Larsk196@msn.com

FDN Editor's Corner

Do you have thoughts, poems, prayers, or reflections to share? The Washington Cursillo® Community wants to hear from you!!

If you know someone who has gone on to their 5th Day, we need your sharing and memories. Please send them before the submission deadlines!!!!

Articles should be submitted no later than the “submission deadline” listed on the Production Schedule, using Arial 12 Font Size, and be no longer than 600 words,

Remember to sign your articles with your name, weekend, and Ultreya.

Submit articles by email to Cursillo 4th Day Newsletter Coordinator:

Lethia A. Kelly, CMP
FDN@WashDC-Cursillo.org

**The Washington Cursillo® Movement
Website**
<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org>

For information on Social Media, please contact:

Stefanie Miles, Coordinator
Charles Wiley, Coordinator
Communications Committee
communications@washdc-cursillo.org

Fifth Day Corner



We celebrate all of our brothers and sisters who have crossed over into their 5th Day since the first of the year. They have completed their pilgrimage on this journey of eternal life. Now they rest in the arms of our Savior. We will miss them dearly, but we know that they go before us, and we will see them again.

Companions on the Journey

Please let us know if any members of your Ultreya have gone on to their 5th Day this year. We would love to celebrate them.



If you need prayer or know someone who does, please send your request to James Brightful at Pray911amen@gmail.com.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God, see, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: "One who trusts will not panic."

Isaiah 28:16



NE/SE

First Friday of the month, 07:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87152982008?pwd=MlpEeVIGUnlwZUw2aVowa3lzOHVvQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 5298 2008

Passcode: 561134

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,9031781530#,,, *176822# US
(New York)

+13017158592,,9031781530#,,, *176822# US
(Washington DC)

Dial by your locations:

- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 903 178 1530

Passcode: 176822

CALVERT COUNTY

Last Friday of the month, 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4224047769?pwd=cVp1b1JHMUxneGxHQkFBOWI4bnRGUT09>

Meeting ID: 422 404 7769

Passcode: 437403

LAUREL – Hybrid Meeting

Third Friday of the month, 7:30–9:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3457817893?pwd=9MtTho2zuZ8lcfBrYWYOHQRq0HQCS7.1&omn=87543866168>

Meeting ID: 345 781 7893

Passcode: 247696

One tap mobile:

11635713017158592,,88116319819#,,,,,0#,,11
6357# US (Washington D.C)

+19292056099,,88116319819#,,,,,0#,,116357#
US (New York)

ULTREYA

ULTREYAS MEET BY THEIR SCHEDULES, EITHER BY ZOOM OR IN PERSON. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR ULTREYA LEADER FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

Calvert County

Ginger Caldwell

7:00pm, Last Friday of the Month
goingsouth@olg.com

St. John Vianney

Cathy Martinoli

Church Basement auntcathy20736@yahoo.com

NE/SE

7:30pm, 1st Friday

Meet Virtually

Bernadette White

bcw3056@yahoo.com

James Brightful

Jamesb.vacation@gmail.com

Laurel

7:30pm, 3rd Friday

St. Nicholas Church

8603 Contee Road

Laurel, MD 20708

Mary and Rick Boivin

mary.boivin@gmail.com

rick.boivin@gmail.com

St. Teresa of Avila

7:30pm, 2nd Monday

St. Teresa's Church

STA is meeting at the Church of the Incarnation until the parish center renovation is completed.

John M. Conroy

staultreya@washdc.org

Montgomery County

7:30pm, 2nd Saturday

Missionaries of the

Most Holy Trinity Home

1733 Metzerott Road

Adelphi MD 70783

Sue Numrich

SNumrich@ida.org

Faye McAneny

301-806-0960

fayemcaneny@hotmail.com

So. Maryland

7pm, 4th Wednesday

St. Mary's Church

Newport

Marc Abresch

tipmanrules@hotmail.com



Donation Form

Washington Cursillo Movement

"Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ!"

Donor information (please print of type)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST. Zip Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Email Address: _____

Donation Information

I (we) enclose a total of \$ _____ ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
☐ Zelle ☐ Zeffy

If paying cash by Zelle or Zeffy electronic direct payment, please use for Zelle treasurer@washdc-cursillo.org and for Zeffy www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/washington-cursillo.

*If you are paying by check or money order. Please make it payable to:
"Washington Cursillo Movement" and send to:*

LaMont Baxter, Treasurer
Washington Cursillo Movement
2419 Monroe Street, NE
Washington, DC 20018
(301) 806-7151